

Amendments to the Claims

1. (Currently amended) A film comprising a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the copolymerization of ethylene with a suitable fluorine-containing comonomer compounds, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer compound and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:

(1) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃.

2. (Currently amended) A fiber comprising a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the copolymerization of ethylene with a suitable fluorine-containing comonomer compounds, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer compound and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:

(1) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃; and

wherein the fiber is obtained by a melt-blown process.

3. (Currently amended) An article having a composite or multilayer structure comprising an outer layer comprising: a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the

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copolymerization of ethylene with suitable a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeounds, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeound and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:
(+) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃.

4. (Currently amended) A microporous membrane comprising a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the copolymerization of ethylene with suitable a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeounds, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeound and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:

(+) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃; and wherein

the membrane is useful as protection protects against permeation of liquids through the membrane.

5. (Currently amended) A flash spun plexifilamentary product comprising a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the copolymerization of ethylene with suitable a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeounds, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer eompeound and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:

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(1) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃.

6. (Currently amended) A melt spun fibrous article comprising a fluorine containing ethylene copolymer (FCEC) obtained by the copolymerization of ethylene with suitable a fluorine-containing comonomer eomponents, wherein the FCEC comprises from about 0.5 wt% to about 40 wt% of a fluorine-containing comonomer eomponent and from about 30 wt% to about 99.5 wt% ethylene, wherein:

(1) the fluorine-containing comonomers are is a fluorinated acrylate or methacrylate esters of the general formula: Cf-L-O-CO-CR=CH₂, wherein:

- (i) Cf is a fluorinated aliphatic group having at least 4 carbon atoms;
- (ii) L is a linking group that connects the fluorinated aliphatic group with the (meth)acrylate group, and L is selected from the group consisting of arylene, arylalkylene, sulfonyl, sulfoxy, sulfonamide, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof ; and
- (iii) R is H or CH₃; and wherein

the fibrous products article are is obtained by melt spinning or multicomponent fiber spinning a FCEC or a blend thereof.

7. (New) A film of Claim 1 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof.

8. (New) A fiber of Claim 2 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof.

9. (New) An article of Claim 3 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethanylene, and combinations thereof.

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10. (New) A microporous membrane of Claim 4 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethylene, and combinations thereof.

11. (New) A flash spun plexifilimentary product of Claim 5 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethylene, and combinations thereof.

12. (New) A melt spun fibrous article of Claim 6 wherein L is selected from the group consisting of sulfonyl, sulfoxy, carboxyamino, carbonyloxy, urethylene, and combinations thereof.